(54) Title: MATCHING PROCESS

L₂M outputs

L₂subelements

#b1   #b2   #bM

SWITCH FABRIC   31

#a1   #a2   #aN

30

L₁ subelements

L₁N inputs
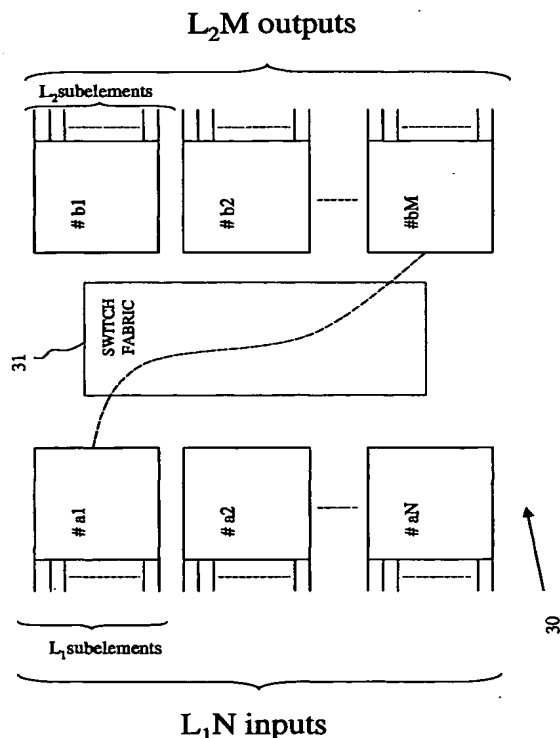
(57) Abstract: A matching method for a multi-stage
switch arrangement having a plurality of logically
associated inputs and a plurality of outputs, wherein
the matching method comprises the steps of: for
each logical association of inputs, aggregating
service requests from every one of the inputs which
form said logical association; resolving contention
for said aggregated service requests between all of
the logical associations to the outputs of the switch
arrangement; and repeating the above steps in the
matching method within each logical association
for a subset of the inputs forming each said logical
association until contention is resolved between the
individual inputs of the switch arrangement and the
outputs of the switch arrangement.

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